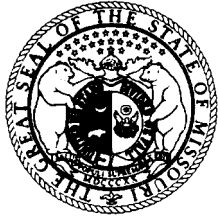


EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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S.A.V.E. Coalition Seeks Building Inspection Volunteers

Following an earthquake or a catastrophic disaster, there is an immediate need for damaged building inspections. Citizens must be kept from using unsafe buildings. Likewise, safe shelter must be provided for those left homeless. It is essential that qualified inspectors quickly identify safe and unsafe structures. A city's building inspection staff may become overloaded and need more help.

To address this need, Missouri Statutes passed RSMo 44.023 creating The SAVE (Structural Assessment Visual Evaluation) Coalition to establish a building inspection program for catastrophic disaster events such as earthquakes. SEMA conducts specialized training for engineers, architects and building professionals who will volunteer their talents for up to three-days to conduct building inspections after disaster events. During this activation, the volunteer inspectors are immune from liability for acts committed in the performance of their official emergency duties, except in cases of willful misconduct or gross negligence

SAVE Coalition inspectors' responsibility is limited to the assessment of buildings and vertical structures. Other inspectors will assess highways, roads and bridges, utilities, dams and other structures.

Any building professional wishing to become a SAVE volunteer must attend the ATC-20 Post Earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings course. Graduates receive SAVE inspector credentials and become a SAVE team member qualified to inspect earthquake damaged buildings. A panel of earthquake and structural experts and building officials has approved all training materials used in this course. During the course, procedures and documents are presented which promote uniformity in the rating of building damages so that different individuals examining the same building will arrive at the same conclusion about its relative safety. At the course, each SAVE inspector receives a field manual and detailed instructions to guide their future work. Some professional organizations also award continuing education credit for completion of this course.

SAVE volunteers are architects, professional engineers, building inspectors or skilled construction industry personnel with at least 5 years of verifiable general building design, construction, or inspection experience. Participating professional organizations include: the American Council of Engineering Companies/Missouri (ACEC/MO), the American Institute of Architects/Missouri (AIA/MO), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE), and the Structural Engineers Association of Kansas & Missouri (SEAKM)

For more information about ACT-20 training, contact Randy Scrivner, Missouri State Emergency Management Agency Earthquake Program Manager at (573) 526-9212 or E-mail: randy.scrivner@sema.dps.mo.gov SEMA's website is: sema.dps.mo.gov